



Protocol for NRT Deployment to Emerging/Active Refugee Response

The protocol below is in addition to the general NRT deployment protocol. NRT members should follow all the basic deployment protocol as approved by the Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.).

Pre-Deployment

When PDA is asked to deploy to an active refugee or asylum response, at least one member of the NRT deployment will be from the Migration Accompaniment Team and will serve as the team lead.

Prior to deployment, the NRT members will receive a written summary of the context related to refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants as well the initial request for assistance. In addition, it may be necessary to receive a verbal briefing by the Mission Specialist for Domestic Refugee Ministries and/or the Associate for Migration Accompaniment Ministries. The deployment email will indicate whether such a briefing is required pre-deployment. The NRT members may also request a briefing, even if not required.

The team lead should ensure the following:

- Set up pre-deployment briefing, when indicated.
- Review the PCUSA document “Welcome and the Law” found on the NRT Quiet Pages.
- Finally, in determining the length of deployment, consider some additional time to allow for any unanticipated meetings necessary to fully assess the needs or provide additional guidance and support.

During the Deployment

As in other types of deployments, both the local responders and the impacted community (refugees or asylum seekers) may feel forgotten or overlooked by the general public. They may also feel at risk of detention or deportation. Your ministry of presence is core to everything else that occurs.

In the carrying out of your specific deployment, please keep the following guidance in mind:

- Take time to gather more information about the context of the response and the identification of other unmet needs.
- Avoid taking any actions that might be understood as against U.S. law and put you at risk of arrest or detention. If the NRT member finds him or herself in the middle of an immigration enforcement action, make every effort to avoid any direct confrontation and contact the Mission Specialist for Domestic Refugee Ministries and/or the Associate for Migration Accompaniment Ministries immediately.



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- Inquire as to availability of immigration legal orientation (Know Your Rights) and legal representation. If possible, the name of any local organizations providing legal services and other partner non-profit organizations should be identified and included in reports.
 - Do not give out any legal advice on immigration matters to the churches, volunteers or the impacted individuals.
 - Include the Mission Specialist for Domestic Refugee Ministries and Associate for Migration Accompaniment Ministries in emails on all standard reporting.
 - Refer to the NRT Quiet Pages or contact the Mission Specialist for Domestic Refugee Ministries and/or the Associate for Migration Accompaniment Ministries for technical assistance, if needed.

Post Deployment

Given that the NRT involvement in migration accompaniment is still in development, whenever possible, final post-deployment report should flag areas for potential development of the Migration Accompaniment Team.

NRT members may be invited to participate in a post-deployment debriefing/review as part of development recommendations for future deployments.

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